

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-20

NEA-14 EA-11 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 STR-08

FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 061751Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1043

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: RUBBER: IRSG STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LONDON, JUNE 5-7

1. AD HOC STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP (IRSG) HAS COMPLETED ITS CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS, CONSTITUTING REVIEW OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (JUNE 1973) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY ON SUBSTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE 89TH MEETING OF IRSG AT JUNE 11-14 SESSION. SECRETARIAT PREPARING REPORT FOR REVIEW AND ADOPTION BY STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) JUNE 7.

2. SC DEVOTED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ITEM 10 OF AGENDA, INVOLVING PROPOSALS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES, AND ITEM 2 -- ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC RUBBER.

3. INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: STRONG VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED IN NEED FOR MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN WORK OF IRSG. UNDER ADROIT HANDLING OF CHAIRMAN DAVID DELL OF U.K. - (WHO INFORMALLY ADVISED

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OF U.S. RESERVATIONS ON FORMAL PERMANENT BODY WITH OPEN-

ENDED MANDATE) CONSENSUS WAS REACHED THAT IRSG SHOULD SET UP AN AD HOC EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY SELECTED ON A PERSONAL BASIS. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF PANEL WOULD BE NAMED BY IRSG AND THEY IN TURN WOULD CHOOSE MEMBERS IN CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. FORMALIZATION IS AVOIDED BY THE PANEL RECEIVING SPECIFIC NEW TASKS WITH NEW MEMBERSHIP AT FUTURE GROUP MEETINGS. THERE WOULD BE NO REFERENCE TO PANEL IN IRSG CONSTITUTION. EFFECT IS TO RETAIN THRUST OF U.S. POSITION OF AD HOC PANEL MEETING FROM TIME TO TIME AS DIRECTED BY IRSG. INITIAL SUGGESTED TASK WOULD BE IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF ORIGINAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE PROSPECTS WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING FROM OIL PRICE INCREASES AND SUPPLY SITUATION, SUPPLIES OF PETROCHEMICAL FEEDSTOCKS AND FERTILIZERS AND OTHER PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS. DELEGATES WELCOMED REVISION OF DEMAND/SUPPLY FORECASTS PROPOSAL BY WILLIAM KILLETT NEW ECONOMIC CONSULTANT TO IRSG BUT FELT MARKET FACTORS NOW REQUIRE THOROUGH ASSESSMENT WHICH ADVISORY PANEL WOULD NOW UNDERTAKE.

4. SC ALSO AGREED THERE WAS NEED FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD REPLACE AND INCORPORATE FUNCTIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND HAVE BROADER POWERS (STILL TO BE DEFINED). IT WAS PROPOSED THAT MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE LIMITED TO NINE COUNTRIES HAVING PREDOMINANT INTEREST IN RUBBER PRODUCTION AND TRADE, BUT AGENDA OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD BE CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE TO ALL OTHER IRSG MEMBERS WHO

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WOULD HAVE RIGHT FULL PARTICIPATION AT ANY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. (THIS COMPROMISE REACHED AFTER STRONG JAPANESE ARGUMENT MADE FAVORING EXCLUSION ALL BUT DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.) STATISTICAL COMMITTEE WOULD BE RETAINED UNCHANGED. SC CHAIRMAN ALSO INDICATED HIS INTENTION AS GROUP CHAIRMAN TO ESCHEW PRACTICE OF REFERRING AGENDA ITEMS TO A TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR WHICH THERE IS NO PROVISION IN IRSG CONSTITUTION. GROUP MEETING WILL THUS CONSIDER ENTIRE AGENDA IN PLENARY SESSION.

5. SECRETARIAT DID NOT DISTRIBUTE PAPER ON ITEM 8 (REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES). CHAIRMAN INSTEAD ASKED U.K., U.S. AND JAPANESE DELS TO MAKE EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS. U.S. DEL ORAL STATEMENT ALONG LINES OF POSITION PAPER WAS WELL RECEIVED.

6. ON ITEM 6 (MARKETING OF NR) INDONESIAN DELEGATION MADE STRONG DEFENSE OF ROLE OF TRADERS AND COMMODITY MARKETS WITHOUT PRECIPITATING DEBATE. U.S. DEL MADE STATEMENT ALONG LINES OF POSITION PAPER. SECRETARIAT EXPECTED TO INDICATE NEUTRAL SC POSITION IN DRAFT REPORT.

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7. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS DISPOSED OF WITHOUT NOTABLE DISCUSSION TOUCHING ON U.S. INTERESTS OR OBJECTIVES.

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